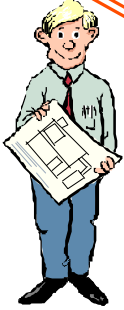
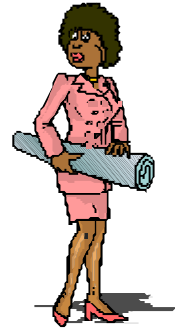




HOW TO REQUEST A CODE INTERPRETATION FROM SFM??



Section 2.05, Title 19, California Code of Regulation, provides that any person may request a code interpretation from the State Fire Marshal relative to the intent of any regulation or provision adopted by him. When the request relates to a specific project, occupancy or building, the State Fire Marshal must review the issue with the appropriate AHJ prior to rendering an interpretation.



You may request a code interpretation from SFM by following these simple requirements:



1. All requests must be in writing. The request should include a specific contact person's name with address, phone, fax and Email information. SFM will NOT accept requests submitted by phone.
2. Interpretation requests from governmental agencies (including fire departments) must be from the fire chief or fire marshal.
3. Each request must identify the specific code section involved. Please identify the code's edition year if applicable (for example, Section 4.08, California Building Code-1998 ed)
4. If the question involves a specific project, the location must be identified. SFM will contact the AHJ for input prior to issuing a final interpretation.
5. Be as detailed as possible. (While you understand the parameters of your issue, we may not.) Identify the occupancy type, construction type, fire protection systems, etc. Don't hesitate to include a drawing or plot plan if it helps identify the issue.
6. Requests should be mailed or faxed to:

Nancy Wolfe, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire Marshal
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
FAX - (916) 445-8509

After SFM staff have reviewed your request and developed an appropriate answer, a written copy of the interpretation will be returned to the contact person who initiated the request. A copy will then be posted to the SFM web site.



Because the time for needed research may vary with each issue, we cannot estimate the time needed to complete each interpretation. However, SFM will attempt to expedite the issuance of Code Interpretations whenever possible.

There is a significant difference between a code interpretation question and a code enforcement question. Code interpretations provide the context and background of specific code sections, whereas a code enforcement question provides information regarding the application of the California Code to a specific facility. Code enforcement questions are directed to the Building Safety Division. Specific questions regarding SFM regulated programs, for example fire extinguishers, fireworks, or building materials listings, should be directed to the specific program staff.

E-Mail Your Code Interpretation Request!

[Code Interpretation](#)

[Code Application](#)